

Message Text

SECRET

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62

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 MC-02 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-20

OMB-01 L-03 DRC-01 /103 W

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R 031159Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7178

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN

S E C R E T TEHRAN 5487

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, US, IR

SUBJ: IRANIAN INTEREST IN FIGHTER AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURE

REF: TEHRAN 5401

1. DURING AUDIENCE JULY 2, REPORTED TO SHAH THAT STATEMENT OF USG POLICY ON AIRCRAFT CO-PRODUCTION WAS BEING PREPARED IN WASHINGTON. HE REMAINS KEENLY INTERESTED IN THIS SUBJECT, AND I HAVE PROMISED TO INFORM HIM OF ULTIMATE USG DECISION ON THIS MATTER (CF REFTEL).

2. SHAH INDICATED HE WAS PLEASED WITH HIS DECISION TO PURCHASE JUST THE F-14. HE IS PREPARED NOW TO AWAIT USAF DECISION AS TO WHETHER TO BUY THE YF-16 OR THE YF-17. HE SAID IN VERY TENTATIVE WAY THAT PERHAPS IRAN WOULD PREFER TWO-ENGINE AIRCRAFT, BUT IN MORE POSITIVE MANNER INDICATED HE WOULD GREATLY PREFER TO PURCHASE A LIGHTWEIGHT FIGHTER AFTER THE USAF HAD DECIDED WHICH ONE WOULD GO INTO THE AIR FORCE INVENTORY.

3. SHAH HAS HAD HARD SELL LATELY FROM NORTHROP COBRA. TOM JONES, KITCHEN, ROOSEVELT AND BURCHINAL HAVE TROOPED THROUGH HERE EITHER INDIVIDUALLY OR COLLECTIVELY BANGING THIS DRUM. SHAH IS OBVIOUSLY INTERESTED BUT IS CAREFULLY RETAINING HIS OPTIONS, INSISTING THAT NORTHROP COME UP WITH 2,000 FIRM ORDERS BEFORE IRAN BECOMES IN-

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VOLVED. THE SHAH SEEMS TO BELIEVE THAT PERHAPS THERE ARE ENOUGH

ORDERS IN NATO TO MEET HIS SPECIFICATION. GENERAL TOUFANIAN DIS-
AGREES. IN ANY EVENT PRINCE BERNHARD STRONGLY FAVORS THE COBRA
OVER MRCA AND HAS CLEARLY BEEN ENTRANCING THE SHAH OVER THE POS-
SIBILITIES IN THIS AIRCRAFT SYSTEM. AT THIS POINT SHAH HAS MADE NO
DECISION ABOUT ANY LIGHTWEIGHT FIGHTER LET ALONE COBRA OR INVESTING
IN NORTHROP FOR PURPOSES OF BUILDING SAME.
HELMS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, MILITARY PROCUREMENT, ARMS PRODUCTION, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TEHRAN05487
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740177-0240
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740775/aaaacmsk.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TEHRAN 5401
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 AUG 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IRANIAN INTEREST IN FIGHTER AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURE
TAGS: MASS, US, IR, NORTHROP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005